



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

October 20, 2016

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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**Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Webinars**

Use the quick links below to access articles or sections included in this newsletter.

[Smarter Balanced Updates](#)

[Special Populations Updates](#)

[2016-17 Important Dates](#)

[Register for E-mail Updates](#)

Five webinars have been scheduled in November and January to provide Connecticut educators with the most up-to-date information regarding the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments for 2016-17. These webinars are for returning users and new users of the Interim Assessments. A description of each webinar, date and time it is being offered and information on how to register is included in the [Interim Assessment Webinar flyer](#). Information about the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment is available on our [Web site](#).

E-mail [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Cristi Alberino](#) in the Bureau of Student Assessment for more information.

**Connecticut SAT School Day Webinar**

A webinar is scheduled for **Friday, October 21, 2016, from 2:30-4:00 p.m.** to provide districts and schools administering the Connecticut SAT School Day in April 2017 with information on how to apply for accommodations for students with individualized education programs (IEPs), 504 Plans and English Learners. The webinar is intended for SSD coordinators, guidance counselors, Test Center Supervisors and principals.

A recorded version will be available after Friday's webinar.



**Growth Model**

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Growth Model for District and School Accountability is described in detail in an [October 11, 2016, letter](#) to superintendents from Commissioner Dianna Wentzell. Please see the narrated PowerPoint cited in this letter for more specific information.

The results from this growth model will serve as the basis for Indicator #2 of the Next Generation Accountability System starting with the 2015-16 results. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) expects that growth results will be available through [EdSight](#) in November.

For more information please visit the [Performance Office web page](#). If you have any questions about the growth model, please contact [Ajit Gopalakrishnan](#), Chief Performance Officer.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**October 20, 2016**

**Smarter Balanced Updates**

**Smarter Balanced Webinars Available**

If you missed the two Smarter Balanced webinars that were presented, both have been recorded and are available.

The [Technology Requirements for Online Testing Webinar](#) was presented on September 28, 2016. It provided an overview of the technology requirements needed on all computers and devices used for online testing, information on secure browser installation, and voice packs for text-to-speech.

The [Test Information Distribution Engine \(TIDE\) Webinar](#) was presented on September 29, 2016. It provided an overview of how to navigate TIDE.

 **Interim Assessment - OPENED ON OCTOBER 18, 2016**

The following materials are available to assist with the administration of the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment:

[Interim Assessment Test Administration Manual](#) provides information for Test Examiners administering the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

[Assessment Viewing Application \(AVA\) User Guide](#) provides an overview of how to access and use the AVA. The AVA allows teachers to view items on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments.

[AIR Ways User Guide](#) provides instructions and support for users viewing student interim assessment performance reports in AIR Ways.

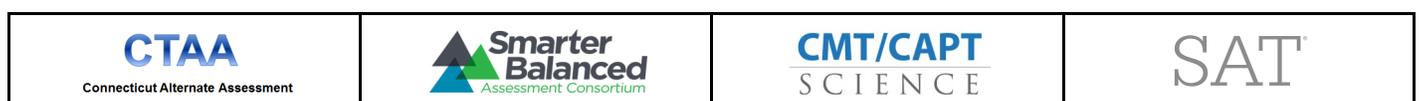
**TIDE Users Required to Create New Passwords**

The 2016-17 TIDE system has been improved with easier navigation and a friendlier user interface. As a result of the TIDE release on October 6, 2016, all user passwords for those with TIDE accounts were cleared and reset. **ALL** users with accounts in TIDE will need to complete the steps listed below to create a new password.

1. Access the [TIDE](#) login page.
2. On the [TIDE](#) login page, select the “Forgot Your Password?” link just below the login prompt.
3. Enter the school *e-mail address* you use for all the Connecticut Assessment systems.
4. An e-mail (from [AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org](mailto:AIRAST-DoNotReply@airast.org)) which contains a new, temporary password will be sent to the e-mail address associated with the account.
5. Return to the [TIDE](#) login page to enter the username and the temporary password.
6. Follow the on-screen prompts to create a new password.

Even though users are required to reset their password, all user accounts which had access to the assessment systems in 2015-16 will continue to have access this year. If a user should no longer have an account, the DA, District Coordinator (DC), or School Coordinator (SC) should follow the process in the [TIDE User Guide](#) to remove system access for that user. Please contact the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Help Desk at 1-844-202-7583 or [cthelpdesk@air.org](mailto:cthelpdesk@air.org) with any questions.

The [TIDE brochure](#) provides a brief overview of the steps for activating or resetting your TIDE account, logging into TIDE and managing user accounts in TIDE.



## Special Populations Updates

### Clarification of TEA User Role for Alternate Assessment

Every teacher administering the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the CMT or CAPT Science, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science must have their own username and password to access the CSDE Portal and the TIDE system. For teachers administering the Alternate Assessments (the CTAA and/or the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science) the DA, District Coordinator (DC), or School Coordinator (SC) must assign the user role of TEA (Teacher Administering the Alternate) rather than the TE (teacher) role. This will allow these teachers to have the same access permissions as their colleagues with the teacher role, in addition to the critical Alternate Assessment required permissions such as access to the *Directions for Test Administration for the CTAA*.

### Assessment Guidelines

The [2016-17 Assessment Guidelines](#) is now posted to the Student Assessment web page under [Special Populations Documentation and Resources](#). This resource provides guidance to Connecticut school district personnel who must make decisions about testing special student populations on the Smarter Balanced Assessments, Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Science, the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science, CMT Skills Checklist Science, the CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA). These special student populations include students identified as eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students identified as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and students who are identified as English Learners (EL). This decision making also includes general education students who may require additional supports.

### 2016-17 Test Supports and Accommodations Form

The updated [2016-17 Test Supports and Accommodations Form](#) used to document the Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science supports and accommodations for students with disabilities or English Learners is available.

### Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System

The [Parent Overview of Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System](#) is now available. This overview for parents/guardians describes components and resources for Connecticut's Alternate Assessment System designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities.



### Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Guidelines and Form

The [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17](#) form must be completed for any student in Grades 3 through 8 who will receive the accommodation of Text-to-Speech or Read Aloud of English language arts/literacy (ELA) reading passages on the Smarter Balanced assessments. This form can be completed online and submitted by clicking on the **SUBMIT FORM** button. The [Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2015-16](#) created by Smarter Balanced will provide you with information about determining if a student qualifies to receive this accommodation.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS**  
**October 20, 2016**

**2016-17 Important Dates**

Event	Dates
The <a href="#">secure browsers for the 2016-17 school year</a> must be downloaded for all 2016-17 online test administrations	Already available
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Testing Window (ICA and IAB) and Interim Assessment Teacher Hand-Scoring System	October 18, 2016-June 9, 2017
District Administrator Workshops	TBD (Tentatively the week of January 16, 2017)
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment Window	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017
CMT/CAPT Science and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, April 28, 2017
Connecticut Alternate Assessment	Monday March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017
Connecticut SAT School Day	Wednesday, April 5, 2017 (Makeup dates: April 25 and April 26)

**Register for email updates**

To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of **race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction.** Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education’s nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

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